

TEMPLATE POLICY PAGE

Category:	Domestic Violence
Country:	Czech Republic
Year:	/

policy page:	<p>The Ministry of Interior launched a project called “Model interdisciplinary project to create a legal framework and guidelines to help introduce interdisciplinary teams providing medical, social, and police assistance in detecting and prosecuting domestic violence”. To support the project, the Minister of Interior initiated an interagency steering group with both agency and NGO membership (April 2002).</p> <p>The above ministries and agencies organize public information and awareness raising media campaigns, meetings, seminars and conferences. Most of them also closely cooperate with their international counterparts.</p> <p>See also –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> http://www.donalinka.cz/index.php?reloadMenu=true&action=& <input type="checkbox"/> http://www.rosa-os.cz/index.php?id=29 <input type="checkbox"/> http://www.bkb.cz
Relevant legislation:	<p>Under the Czech law, domestic violence is a crime (Para 215a of the Act 140/1961 – The Criminal Code, amendment in force as of June 1, 2004 under the merit of Violence against a person living in a common household). The Criminal Code as well as related bylaws only react to the violence which had been already committed and treat neither prevention nor support to victims. To prosecute domestic violence, the Police would use the above paragraph of the Criminal Code or relevant provisions of the Act on administrative violations or the Police Act. Less serious acts of domestic violence are often treated as administrative violations. On the other hand, domestic violence may be qualified as a substantially different crime, such as violence against a group of people or an individual, bodily harm, limitation of personal freedom, rape, or extortion.</p> <p>A new act No. 135/2006 Coll. (in effect as of January 1, 2007), has amended the Act No. 283/1991 Coll., Police Act, Act No. 99/1963 Coll., Civil code of court procedure, the Criminal Code and selected instruments guiding social welfare. The legislators built upon Austrian, German, Italian, Swedish, UK, Dutch and US legislation. The three fundamental pillars of the Act are the following:</p> <p>Expulsion – to be imposed in an administrative procedure by the Police, respectively a member of the police force, to remove the violent perpetrator from the whereabouts of the victim(s). By separating the</p>

	<p>perpetrator from the victim, the authorities stop the immediate violence in the family or common household and prevent its repeated outbreak.</p> <p>Preliminary measures – the person threatened by a perpetrator may ask a court to issue a preliminary measure to force the perpetrator to leave the common household and its immediate surroundings and stay away for the prescribed time. A court may also prolong the previously imposed expulsion.</p> <p>Intervention centres – administrative regions of the Czech Republic shall establish intervention centres to provide psychological, legal and social assistance to victims and to coordinate activities of the public administration (child protection and welfare institutions, medical care, courts, and the Police).</p>
<p>Trends:</p>	<p>A nationwide sociological research performed by STEM, a public opinion research agency, in 2001, showed that 16 per cent of respondents aged 15 or over (both genders) came to contact with domestic violence. Another comprehensive research concerning domestic violence, completed in September 2006, indicates that the Czech public is more and more concerned about the need to pay relevant attention to this negative phenomenon.</p> <p>The 2006 research shows that the public at large (84 per cent of respondents) perceives domestic violence as a serious problem, which cannot be solved by the concerned families themselves and requires intervention of public authorities. It also reveals that relatively few people remain untouched by domestic violence – on the contrary, every second person above the age of 15 has at least once heard from friends or relatives about victims of domestic violence and nearly one fourth of respondents have encountered domestic violence directly as witnesses or, quite often, as victims themselves. Repeated research shows that about 16 per cent of Czechs fall victims to domestic violence every year. Most of the affected families include children (80 per cent) and in almost 60 per cent of such families, children witness the violence.</p> <p>Most respondents see the past five years positively and are convinced that domestic violence has been debated more often (89 %), more has been done to help solve it (68 %), and victim support has become more available (74 %). The public at large (80% of respondents) sees the changes and measures implemented in the past years very positively, in particular the possibility to expel the perpetrator from a common household and the launching of intervention centres (see legislation).</p> <p>In October 2002, the White circle of safety NGO and Philip Morris 6R a.s. jointly launched an Alliance against domestic violence to help draft and promote changes to improve protection against domestic violence. The Alliance assembled, in the early 2004, to a group of experts who drafted a new bill on domestic violence. The new Act No. 135/2006 Coll., on domestic violence was approved by the Parliament of the Czech Republic on March 14, 2006 and came to effect on January 1, 2007 (see national legislation).</p>

In the past five years, the Alliance drafted, printed, and distributed a number of information flyers for the Police, guidelines for the medical personnel, social workers, and members of commissions prosecuting administrative violations. In 2004 to 2006, representatives of the Alliance organized, in all administrative regions of the Czech Republic, over 30 meetings and seminars with experts in the relevant fields.

*** STEM for the White circle of safety and Philip Morris R a.s.**

www.donalinka.cz

Contacts:

National organisations:

- Bílý kruh bezpečí, o.s. (White circle of safety) – www.bkb.cz (also in English)
- ProFem o.p.s. – www.profem.cz
- Consultation Centre for Women's Issue Projects KOORDONA – www.koordona.cz (association of NGOs concerned with domestic violence), e.g.:
- 2eská katolická charita (Czech catholic charity) – project Magdala – www.caritas.cz
- 2eský svaz žen (Czech women's association) – www.csz.cz
- Liga lidských práv (Human rights league) – www.llp.cz
- Nezávislé sociální a ekologické hnutí (Independent social and environmental movement) – NESEHNUTÍ Brno – www.nesehnuti.cz
- Psychosociální centrum Acorus – centrum pro ženy – oběti domácího násilí (Psychological and social centre for women – victims of domestic violence)
- ROSA – informaní a poradenské centrum pro ženy – oběti domácího násilí (Information and counselling centre for women victims of domestic violence)– www.rosa-os.cz
- Slezská diakonie – Poradna ELPIS (Silesian deaconic counselling centre – www.slezskadiakonie.cz

* this list does not include other, mostly regional, NGOs operating on the local level

* most of the above NGOs are members of various international associations and groups

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